

REMARKS

1. Claims 1 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Mayer (US 5,470,319).

2. Claims 1 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Challender, et al. (US 5,492,147).

3. Claims 2-4, 7-12 and 16-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Challender, et al. in view of Mayer.

4. Independent base claims 1 and 13 have been amended to recite “at least a portion of said valve body being located on an exterior of said valved connector.” This feature is clearly shown in FIGS. 5-8 of the drawings; no new matter has been added. Applicant submits that this change to the claims overcomes the grounds of rejection. Applicant further submits that this feature is not obvious in light of the prior art. Having at least a portion of the valve body located on an exterior of the valved connector permits opening and closing of the valve with a simple motion by the operator, without employing a tool or an external piece, as stated in the Summary section of the application.

In Mayer, the valve body (reseal member 120) is entirely internal to the valved connector (needleless injection site 70), necessitating that an external piece (tip 148 of introducer device 150) be used to open the valve element (aperture 240). (See FIGS. 6-10.) Because of its configuration, the needleless injection site of Mayer is unable to fulfill the desired function of permitting opening and closing of the valve with a simple motion by the operator, without employing a tool or an external piece.

Likewise, in Challender, et al., the valve body (carrier member 26) is entirely internal to the valved connector (the male member 10 of the dry break coupling), necessitating that an external piece (the female member 20 of the dry break coupling) be used to open the valve element (rubber septum 32). Because of its configuration, the dry break coupling of Challender, et al. is unable to fulfill the desired function of permitting opening and closing of the valve with a simple motion by the operator, without employing a tool or an external piece.

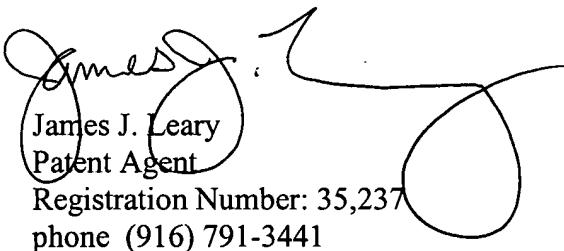
Since neither Mayer nor Challender, et al. disclose this claim feature, no possible combination of the two could make the claimed invention. In addition, the proposed combination could not fulfill the desired function of permitting opening and closing of the valve with a simple motion by the operator, without employing a tool or an external piece.

Claims 1-19 are therefore submitted as patentable over the cited prior art.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that the claims all define novel subject matter that is unobvious. Therefore, allowance of such claims is submitted to be proper and is respectfully requested. If Examiner deems that additional changes are needed prior to allowance of the claims, Examiner is urged to initiate a telephonic interview with applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

Very respectfully submitted,



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